

## Martinez, Ruben

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**From:** Cyndie Crowell  
**Sent:** Friday, October 02, 2020 3:08 PM  
**To:** Cynthia Crowell  
**Subject:** Affordable Housing In Pasadena, CA

**CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Tournek and Pasadena City Council Members,

My name is Cynthia Crowell, and I have served as the Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church in the Hastings Ranch area of Pasadena for over 20 years.

Time and time again, it has been my experience that members of our church who reside in Pasadena make the decision to sell their homes and move to more affordable geographic regions in our state and country. Over the years, I have witnessed our city becoming an increasingly more expensive place in which to live. And the impact of the COVID pandemic is only exacerbating this problem. We are in desperate need of more affordable housing. The allowance of "granny flats" is only a small, though necessary, step, in helping to alleviate this situation.

I am aware that we now have two major opportunities for the development of more affordable housing -- the Water and Power site in the civic center and unused land owned by churches and other faith communities. The Water and Power site has been vacant for many years. This property would be an excellent location for affordable housing and, as surplus land, this would be a priority use for this property. I urge you to move forward with this process as quickly as possible.

And, churches across the City of Pasadena have indicated their willingness to offer their land for the placement of affordable housing units. Making the necessary zoning variances to allow this to happen is critical. This will allow affordable housing projects to be considerably less expensive thereby allowing for a greater number of units to be constructed.

I urge you to please advise the Planning Commission to work with the Planning Department to effect the necessary zoning changes.

Thank you very much for your consideration and for your valuable service to this community.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Cynthia W. Crowell

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2020 OCT -5 AM 9:40

OCT 05 2020

**Rick Cole**

Pasadena 91104

October 3, 2020

**RE: *Item 18 Potential Housing for the Homeless at Religious Institutions***

Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers:

I am writing to ask your support for Option One, the recommendation for the “to continue processing Zoning Code Amendments on an open-ended basis, and return with recommendations based on input from a virtual community meeting and Planning Commission meeting.”

Communities of faith have been foundational to Pasadena’s unique civic sense of community. In the current era, their properties represent an historic opportunity for many forms of affordable housing that will be compatible with the values and purposes of those religious institutions.

Pasadena is a diverse community in so many dimensions. Affordability of housing is crucial to maintaining our demographic diversity. And recognizing the diversity of sites across the city in terms of neighborhood context, it makes sense to thoughtfully study how to best accommodate affordable housing in ways that strengthen community.

Option Three, closing the door to this promising potential would be short-sighted and counter-productive. Option Two, imposing specific direction that would limit the possibility for creative problem-solving would be premature.

Please strongly endorse this opportunity and give the Planning Commission, staff and the public to participate in careful study to formulate win-win recommendations.

Respectfully,



Rick Cole

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Item 18

## Martinez, Ruben

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**From:** Anthony Manousos 1>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 03, 2020 3:16 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** In support of Agenda Item #18: allowing churches to provide affordable and supportive housing on their excess land

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Dear Honorable Mayor and Council members,

I commend the City Council for its support for affordable housing and its openness to ideas that would address our growing housing crisis, such as affordable housing on church land. I am writing regarding agenda item #18 that would give the Planning Staff the ability to explore the pros and cons of emergency housing as well as long-term affordable housing on church land.

This is something in keeping with the mission of churches and is strongly supported both by churches and by homeless service providers like Union Station. I urge the Council to give the Planning Department discretion to explore a wide range of possible solutions since the need is so great.

Churches want to be part of the solution to this problem. From the poll we at MHCH conducted, 17 churches are interested in having affordable housing on their land, with the potential of 1,177 units if a Congregational Land Overlay Zone is passed. 95% of churches would support a Congregational Land Overlay Zone to help other churches build housing on their land. Additionally, 19 churches (nearly half of all respondents) would allow SAFE parking on their church's parking lots. And 11 churches were open to having a FEMA trailer on their property. Twelve churches already own approximately 58 rental units. Only six of them rent at market rate.

An overlay zone makes good sense since it would allow community-minded congregations that are already willing and mission-driven to become partners with the city to meet an urgent need. It also allows religious institutions to practice their faith in a tangible way. Community-based organizations would do this sensitively and respectfully out of love for their neighbors. Because they would live with this project for the long term, churches would be apt to design it in a way that is in keeping with the neighborhood so they can maintain good relationships with neighbors. This element of commitment and trust would help address the concerns of neighbors who are fearful of affordable housing because of a lack of knowledge or experience.

I urge the Council to allow churches the option to address the city's growing need for affordable and supportive housing.

Yours in friendship and peace,

Anthony Manousos

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"Common folk, not statesmen, nor generals, nor great men of affairs, but just simple men and women, if they devote themselves ... can do something to build a better peaceful world."--Henry Cadbury, 1947"

The humble, meek, merciful, just, pious, and devout souls are everywhere of one religion; and when death has taken off the mask, they will know one another, though the liveries they wear here make them strangers."--William Penn.

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## Martinez, Ruben

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**From:** Wygene Taylor < >  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 04, 2020 11:20 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** Affordable Housing in Pasadena

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October 4, 2020

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council members,

My name is Wygene Taylor and I am a member of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church.

We desperately need more affordable housing in Pasadena!

- Our church used to be full of Pasadena residents, but many of them have had to move away because housing costs are so high!

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**From:** Gary L. Moody  
**Sent:** Monday, October 05, 2020 8:57 AM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** Agenda item# 18

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Church attendance is declining, Gallop says that 69% of U.S. adults were members of a church in 1998-2000, compared with 52% in 2016-2018. This is particularly the case within land-rich older and mainline churches. Some churches are looking to off-load over-sized parking lots, high-maintenance buildings, and extra space. With shrinking congregations, many churches are unable to keep up. Affordable housing on church land has enabled churches to bless their communities, stay within mission, and help to prevent displacement due to the cost of housing, the very thing that is hurting many Pasadena churches. Should a church feel called to consider affordable housing on their property, an overlay zone enabling churches desiring to have affordable housing on their property would provide a huge leap forward in addressing the housing crisis.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

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Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council members,

My name is Gretchen Saalbach and I am a member of First Baptist Church Pasadena, as well as a pastor who is helping the church find ways to help people in this city.

We desperately need more affordable housing in Pasadena!

Churches across Pasadena are stepping up to offer their land for affordable housing but need city zoning amended to make this dream a reality. An overlay zone would allow community-minded congregations to become partners with the city to meet a very real need while practicing their faith in a very tangible way. Rezoning will not only accelerate the development process but will also considerably lower development cost, thereby providing increased units, sooner. Because churches are sprinkled across the city an overlay zone would allow for affordable housing developments throughout the city therefore providing for greater geographic equity and neighborhood diversity.

Rezoning church land is one way that the city can begin to rectify the racial inequities that have displaced hard-working people of color from Pasadena. As a result of significant, ongoing displacement for more than 50 years, one church only has 8 members left. Several have closed. As one pastor put it, their church building is in Pasadena, but no one from their congregation can afford to live here anymore. Rezoning church land to allow for affordable housing would serve to prevent more displacement and begin to heal the mistakes of the past. Please advise the Planning Commission to work with the Planning Department to make the necessary zoning change.

Thank you for your service to our community!

In partnership,

Gretchen Saalbach

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2020 OCT -5 AM 10:14:0

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

**Martinez, Ruben**

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**From:** Anne Marie Molina <[redacted]@pasadena.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 05, 2020 11:42 AM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** #18

**CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor and city council,

I ask that you to please consider supporting a common sense solution to our crisis of housing.

I hope that you listen to the community who are not only struggling to afford housing but also to maintain congregations together. If we are truly a leader in community building allowing a church to both house neighbors and maintain their churches its a obvious way to improve our community.

At my church our children's groups have dropped as members can no longer afford to stay in Pasadena. The same is happening at our schools.

Thank you

Anne Marie Molina

Pasadena, CA 91104

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**Martinez, Ruben**

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**From:** Areta Crowel >  
**Sent:** Monday, October 05, 2020 10:45 AM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** October 5 Agenda item #18

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Honorable Mayor and City Council

I am very grateful for your efforts to make more affordable housing come to reality in Pasadena. The Church Land Use zoning overlay is a very creative way to make more land available for that purpose across the city at no cost to the city. I understand there are many churches wishing to use their land resources for the benefit of the community in this way. I urge you to instruct the Planning Department to develop this concept into a practical bylaw which can pave the way for more affordable housing to be developed by churches - or other nonprofits- without having to do each project separately which would make most small development inefficient and thus not yield the increase we desperately need . Thank you for moving ahead with this constructive effort Areta. Crowell

Pasadena 91106  
Sent from my iPhone

10/05/2020  
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## Martinez, Ruben

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**From:** Jill Shook <[jillshook@missionsdoor.org](mailto:jillshook@missionsdoor.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 05, 2020 11:35 AM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** re: agenda item # 18

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Rezoning church land is one way that the city can make right with past sins of racial inequities that served to displace people of color. With Urban renewal, a thriving African American neighborhood where Parsons now sits was displaced, moving about 20,000 folks away from the city center, and that property today is zoned for 87 units per acre. They were not given the opportunity to capture the added value of the land from up-zoning, but instead encouraged to leave. Thriving Black communities and businesses on N. Fair Oaks were also displaced because of urban renewal. The 210 Freeway pushed out even more people of color. Too many families were not sufficiently remunerated for their property to again buy in Pasadena. And if they wanted to, banks often would not provide them loans and they often were barred from obtaining private mortgage insurance. In fact, that is why Family Thrift was established, that later became One United Bank, a minority owned bank to provide mortgages not offered at other banks. Due to significant displacement, one church on N. Fair Oaks only has 8 members left. Several have closed. As one pastor put it, their church building is in Pasadena, but no one from their congregation can afford to live here anymore. Rezoning church land to allow for affordable housing would serve to prevent more displacement and correct past sins. Some Black churches are eager to provide affordable housing on their underutilized land, please allow them to do so.

Jill Shook, Missions Door, Catalyst <http://www.missionsdoor.org/missionaries/shook-jill>

Doctor of Ministry, Bakke Graduate School

Blog: [makinghousinghappen.net](http://makinghousinghappen.net) Websites: [www.makinghousinghappen.org](http://www.makinghousinghappen.org) and [makinghousinghappen.com](http://makinghousinghappen.com)

Author/Editor: *Making Housing Happen: Faith Based Affordable Housing Models*



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**From:** Amara Ononiwu < >  
**Sent:** Monday, October 05, 2020 12:12 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Cc:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** Affordable Housing Support - (Item #18)

**CAUTION:** This email was delivered from the Internet. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers,

My name is Amara Ononiwu and I am the Housing and Homelessness Coordinator for Lake Avenue Church located in District 5. Our church has been a long-standing contributor to the well-being of community and our neighbors. I am writing to urge you to support an overlay zoning that would permit churches/faith institutions to build affordable housing on land they own (item #18). We need affordable housing in Pasadena more than ever. The pandemic has exasperated the need that was already arising as long-time members of the community have had to move to more affordable areas outside of the city and county.

We have major opportunities for affordable housing right now. One being churches.

Churches are an indispensable part of our City's social fabric and connective identity. Many serve in capacities that mirror service providers and city agencies in area of homelessness prevention, housing support, child care, youth development, general well-being of citizens. There is a long and rich history of community investment and care for neighbors. This creates a perfect model for offering affordable housing on their property because they know the people intimately and see the common red-tape struggles up close and personal as they walk with people in need of housing that they can truly afford in order to stay in the city they have called home.

We also support development of the Ramona site at the civic center for affordable housing.

Thank you tremendously for your service to our community and for the depth of consideration and innovation you will move forward with to help our city with this crisis as you listen to voices of those also proven committed to serving our city.

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